

PATENT SPECIFICATION

(11) 1442835

1442835

- (21) Application No. 48920/73 (22) Filed 19 Oct. 1973
 (31) Convention Application No. 104865/72 (32) Filed 21 Oct. 1972
 (31) Convention Application No. 105289/72 (32) Filed 23 Oct. 1972 in
 (33) Japan (JA)
 (44) Complete Specification published 14 July 1976
 (51) INT CL² C03L 25/04/(C08L 25/04 23/06 23/12)
 (52) Index at acceptance



C3P 102 10D1A 10K4 1D1B 4D3B1 4K10 7D1C 7D2A1
 7K8 8D2B2 8K7 8K8 E2 PC10 PC12B PC12X
 PC13B PC13C PC17 PC20A PC3 PC8C
 G2H 5D1A 5D1Y 5DY 5G1A 5G1B2 5G1B3 5G1B4
 5G1BX 5G1BY 5G1Y 5G2B 5G2D 5G2E 5G2G1
 5G2G2 5G2G4 5G2G5 5G2Y 5G4B 5G4E 5G4Y
 5GY 5Y

(54) TONER FOR USE IN DEVELOPING ELECTROSTATIC IMAGES

(71) We, KONISHIROKU PHOTO INDUSTRY CO. LTD., a Japanese Body Corporate of 1-10, 3-Chome, Nihonbashi-Muro-Machi, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, do hereby declare the invention for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to toners for use in developing electrostatic images formed by electrophotography, facsimile recording, electrostatic printing and the like.

Development of electrostatic images has heretofore been carried out by various processes. The process may be roughly divided into two major methods, one of which is wet development where developers comprising finely divided particles of various pigments or dyes dispersed in insulating organic solvents are used therefor, and the other of which is so-called dry development including such processes, for example, as cascade, hair brushing, magnetic brushing, impression and powder cloud, where fine grain developers, which are called toners, comprising natural or synthetic resins having dispersed therein colouring agents such as carbon black and the like are used. The present invention pertains to toners which are used in the latter method, i.e. dry development.

After development of an electrostatic image by use of a toner, fixation of the image is effected. Generally, however, the fixation is carried out by melt fixing a toner image obtained by the development directly onto a photoconductive element or electrostatic recording element having thereon the electrostatic image, or transferring the toner image obtained by the development from the photoconductive element or electrostatic recording element onto a transfer sheet such as a sheet of ordinary paper and then melt fixing the

transferred toner image on the transfer sheet. In that case, the melt-fixing of the toner image is effected by either contact with solvent vapor or by application of heat. In practicing the application of heat, a so-called non-contact heating process by means of an electric oven and a pressure-contact heating process by means of a heating roller are generally adopted.

In the pressure-contact heating process by means of the heating roller, fixation of a toner image transferred to adhere to a sheet onto which the image is to be fixed is carried out by passing said image through the surface of the roller while being contacted under pressure, said surface of the roller being formed from a material having non-sticking property to the toner. This process is generally called a heating roller fixing method. The method is extremely effectively adaptable to an electrophotographic copying machine of the image transfer type especially having as its object a high speed reproduction. This is because, the surface of the heating roller is brought into contact directly with the surface of the toner image of the sheet onto which said image is to be fixed, and hence an extremely high thermal efficiency may be attained at the time of melt fixing the toner image onto the sheet onto which said image is to be fixed, whereby the fixation can be carried out rapidly. In this method, however, the surface of the fixing roller is brought into contact with the toner image in a hot melt state, and hence a part of the toner image adheres to and remains on the surface of the fixing roller, whereby the part of the toner image remaining on the surface of the fixing roller is transferred again back onto the surface of a subsequent sheet onto which the toner image is to be successively fixed, thereby causing a so-called offset phenomenon which results in staining the sheet in some

cases. For that account, it has therefore been deemed as one of the indispensable requisite for the successful hot roller fixing method to avoid adhesion of a toner to the surface of roller.

For the purpose of avoiding adhesion of toner to the surface of fixing roller, there have heretofore been adopted some measures, for example, a method in which the surface of the roller is formed from a material having excellent non-sticking property to the toner, such as fluorocarbon resins, and simultaneously said surface of roller is further covered with a thin film of an offset-preventing liquid, such as silicone oil, which liquid is constantly fed in a given amount to the surface of roller. This method is extremely effective in the prevention of offset of the toner. On the other hand, however, the method has such drawbacks that the offset-preventing liquid is heated to evolve an undesirable odor. Further this method requires an additional means for feeding the offset-preventing liquid is required and hence the apparatus as the whole becomes complicated in its mechanism and at the same time becomes expensive because a high accuracy is required for obtaining the results high in stability of reproduction. In the case where no offset-preventing liquid is supplied, however, the toner adheres to the surface of the fixing roller, whereby the offset phenomenon occurs. In spite of all these drawbacks, there is no alternative but to use the offset-preventing liquid. Thus is the hot roller fixing method carried on.

An object of the present invention is to provide a toner for use in developing electrostatic images, by the use of which an excellent hot roller fixation of the images can be effected efficiently without occurrence of the offset phenomenon of toner even when a fixing roller is supplied without any offset-preventing liquid. We have found that the object of the present invention as aforesaid can be accomplished by use of a toner for use in developing electrostatic images, said toner comprising (a) a coloring agent, (b) a styrene polymer (homo- or co-polymer) resin, (c) at least one polyalkylene compound selected from polyethylene and polypropylene. Still further, we have discovered that the aforesaid object can be accomplished likewise by use of a toner for use in developing electrostatic images, said toner comprising (d) a paraffin wax together with or without (e) a metal salt of a fatty acid in addition to the aforesaid (a), (b) and (c).

By virtue of the use of the present toner for use in developing electrostatic images, it becomes possible to conduct an excellent hot roller fixation in an efficient manner without bringing about the offset phenomenon, even when the fixing roller is not provided with the offset-preventing liquid. Thus, not only

the mechanism of a fixation apparatus may be simplified but also the efficiency, for example, accuracy, stability and reliability, of a high speed copying machine comprising such an apparatus for the hot roller fixation and, moreover, the cost of the high speed copying machine may be reduced. Accordingly, a superhigh speed copying machine may be quite easily worked when it is designed as to use the present toner.

In the present toner, any suitable pigments or dyes may be used as the coloring agent specified in the present invention. For example, there may be used carbon black, nigrosin dyes, Aniline Blue, Calco Oil Blue, Chrome Yellow, Ultramarine Blue, Du Pont Oil Red, Quinoline Yellow, Methylene Blue Chloride, Phthalocyanine Blue, Malachite Green Oxalate, lampblack, Rose Bengal and mixtures thereof. The amount of any of these coloring agents to be contained in the present toner should be sufficient to color the toner so that a visible image may be formed at the time of development.

In the present toner, a styrene polymer resin is used as a resin component of the toner. The styrene polymer resin may be either a homopolymer of styrene or copolymer of styrene with other ethylenically unsaturated monomer(s). Such monomers include for instance p - chlorostyrene; vinyl naphthalene; monoolefins, e.g. ethylene, propylene, butylene and isobutylene, vinyl esters, e.g. vinyl chloride, vinyl bromide, vinyl fluoride, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, vinyl benzoate and vinyl butyrate; esters of α - methylene aliphatic monocarboxylic acid, e.g. methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n - butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, n - octyl acrylate, 2 - chloroethyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, methyl α - chloracrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate, and butyl methacrylate; acrylonitrile; methacrylonitrile; acrylamide; vinyl ethers e.g. vinyl methyl ether, vinyl isobutyl ether and vinyl ethyl ether; vinyl ketones, e.g. vinyl methyl ketone, vinyl hexyl ketone and methyl isopropenyl ketone; and such N - vinyl compounds, for example, as N-vinyl pyrrole, N-vinyl pyrrolidone, N - vinyl indole and N - vinyl pyrrolidone. One or two or more of these monomers may be copolymerized with styrene monomer. The most suitable styrene polymer resins usually have an average molecular weight of about 3000 or more and the styrene content of the resin is preferably at least 25% by weight based on the total weight of the styrene polymer resin.

Thermoplastic resins prepared by mixing a styrene polymer resin with other resins may also be used as resin component of the present toner. Other resins capable of being mixed with the styrene polymer resin include homopolymers or copolymers of the following monomers: vinyl naphthalene; such vinyl

esters, for example, as vinyl chloride, vinyl bromide, vinyl fluoride, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, vinyl benzoate and vinyl butyrate; such esters of α - methylene aliphatic monocarboxylic acid, for example, as methyl acrylate, ethyl acrylate, n - butyl acrylate, isobutyl acrylate, dodecyl acrylate, n - octyl acrylate, 2 - chloro - ethyl acrylate, phenyl acrylate, methyl α - chloroacrylate, methyl methacrylate, ethyl methacrylate and butyl methacrylate; acrylonitrile; methacrylonitrile; acrylamide; such vinyl ethers, for example, as vinyl methyl ether, vinyl isobutyl ether and vinyl ethyl ether; such vinyl ketones, for example, as vinyl methylketone, vinyl hexyl ketone and methyl isopropenyl ketone; and such N - vinyl compounds, for example, as N - vinyl pyrrole, N - vinyl, carbazole N - vinyl indole and N - vinylpyrrolidone. Alternatively included are, for example, such non-vinyl type thermoplastic resins as resin-modified phenol - formaldehyde resins, oil - modified epoxy resins, polyurethane resins, cellulose resins and polyether resins. In the case where the above-mentioned resin is used in admixture with the styrene polymer resin, both resins are preferably mixed with each other in such a manner that the styrene - derived component constitutes at least 25% by weight based on the total weight of the resulting resin. This is because the non-sticking property of the toner to the fixing roller is closely related to the amount of styrene - derived component of the resin present in the toner and there is such a tendency that the non-sticking property of the toner to the fixing roller is lowered with the decrease in amount of the styrene - derived component of the resin.

In the present toner, a combination of at least one polyalkylene compound selected from polyethylene and polypropylene is used as a toner additive which contributes towards the achievement of non-sticking effect of the toner.

When each one of polyethylene and polypropylene is incorporated alone in the toner, it is quite effective in improving the non-sticking property of the toner to the fixing roller. In that case, however, polyethylene and polypropylene are both low in compatibility to the styrene polymer resin and hence they are not sufficiently compatible with the resin component in the toner, whereby the resulting toner is liable to agglomeration. However, when the amount of polyethylene or polypropylene is reduced with the view of avoiding the agglomeration of toner, the non-sticking property of the toner to the fixing roller is lowered. On the other hand, when paraffin wax is added alone to the toner, it is liberated, because of its relatively low melting point, on the surfaces of particles of the toner, whereby the resulting toner is likewise liable to agglomeration. Moreover, in that case, the melting point of the toner itself is lowered and hence fluidity of the toner is increased when said toner is subjected to melt-fixing by application of heat, whereby the temperature range within which the non-sticking action of the toner may be achieved leans to a relatively low side and thus the range is disadvantageously narrowed. However, such disadvantages as may be seen in the cases where polyethylene, polypropylene and paraffin wax are singly incorporated in the toner may be overcome by incorporation in the toner of a combination of at least one polyalkylene compound selected from polyethylene and polypropylene with paraffin wax. That is, when the above combination is incorporated in the toner, compatibility of the polyalkylene compound to the resin component of the toner is improved and, at the same time, liberation of the paraffin wax is suppressed, whereby no agglomeration of the resulting toner takes place. A further advantage is that by suitably varying the proportion of the polyalkylene compound to the paraffin wax in a combination thereof, the temperature range within which the resulting toner may exhibit its non-sticking action can be enlarged to select a desired range. In addition thereto, the non-sticking action of the toner on the fixing roller is further improved by use of the said combination in the toner.

The polyalkylene compound used in the present toner is preferably such that not only it is high in compatibility to the styrene type resin component as much as possible but also it has a relatively low molecular weight because those as having considerably high melting points are not preferable for selecting a desired melt-fixing temperature. In the case of polyethylene, for example, those which have an average molecular weight of from about 1500 to about 3000 are particularly advantageously usable, and in the case of polypropylene, those which have an average molecular weight of from about 2000 to about 6000 are usable likewise. The paraffin wax used in the present toner in combination with the polyalkylene compound includes natural or synthetic paraffin hydrocarbons of 15 to 40 carbon atoms, which are white and translucent waxy solids at ordinary temperature and have a melting point of from 37° to 65°C.

Weight proportions of the combination of the polyalkylene compound with the paraffin wax to the toner and of the polyalkylene compound to the paraffin wax may vary according to the kind of the resin component of toner, coloring agent and the toner additive and to their respective amounts to be added. Generally, however, the sum of amounts of the polyalkylene compound and paraffin wax in their combination is 0.1 to 50 parts and preferably 0.5 to 15 parts by weight per 100

parts by weight of the resin component of the toner. In that case, the said combination preferably comprises 25 to 400 parts by weight of the paraffin wax per 100 parts by weight of the polyalkylene compound. This is because, when the amount of the paraffin wax to be combined with the polyalkylene compound is excessively small, such drawback as may be seen in the case of single incorporation in the toner of the polyalkylene compound is apt to be brought about and, on the other hand, if the amount of the paraffin wax is excessively large, such drawback as may be seen in the case of single incorporation into the toner of the paraffin wax is apt to be brought about. In the practice of incorporation in the toner of the polyalkylene compound in combination with the paraffin wax, the combination may be added to the mixture of the resin component, coloring agent and various toner additives at the time of preliminary mixing step prior to the kneading step. In that case, compatibility of the polyalkylene compound to the resin component can be improved by addition of the combination of the polyalkylene compound with the paraffin wax in the form of a solid solution thereof.

In the present toner, a metal salt of fatty acids may also be used in further combination with the combination of a styrene polymer resin and at least one polyalkylene compound selected from polyethylene and polypropylene with the paraffin wax.

The addition of the metal salt of a fatty acid to the present toner acts to exert an extremely preferable influence upon the toner. That is, by addition of the metal salt of fatty acids, compatibility of the polyalkylene compound to the resin component is further improved and, in addition, the dispersion capability of the paraffin wax, coloring agent and other toner additives such as a charge controlling agent is also further improved. For that account, not only the non-sticking property of the resulting toner can be further improved but also stability of the toner can be markedly enhanced and also the toner's life can sharply be prolonged without being subject to a change in frictional charge characteristic even when the toner is used for a long period of time. Furthermore, the resulting toner may also be improved in its moisture resisting property.

Representatives of the metal salt of fatty acids used in the present invention include a cadmium, barium, lead, iron, nickel, cobalt, copper, strontium, calcium or magnesium salt of stearic acid; a zinc, manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, lead or magnesium salt of oleic acid; a zinc, cobalt, copper, magnesium, aluminium or calcium salt of linoleic acid; a lead salt of caprylic acid; a lead salt of caproic acid; and mixtures of two or more thereof. The above-mentioned

metal salt may be incorporated in the toner in an amount of 0.1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts of the resin component of the toner comprising the aforesaid combination of the polyalkylene compound with the paraffin wax, whereby excellent results as aforesaid can be obtained. Furthermore, other toner additives including a carrier, an electric charge control agent, etc. may be added to the toner, if necessary.

Toner images formed by use of the present toner on a sheet, onto which said images are fixed, may be fixed thereon efficiently and excellently according to the hot roller fixation method without bringing about any offset phenomenon of the toner even when the fixing roller, the surface of which is not provided with any offset-preventing liquid, is used. As the fixing roller, there may be used effectively those having a smooth surface formed from such fluorocarbon resins as Teflon (produced by Du Pont), Fluon (produced by ICI) and Kel-F (produced by 3 M) or such relatively hard silicone rubber as KE-1300 RTV (produced by Shinetsu Chemical Industry Co.).

The present invention is illustrated below with reference to Examples, but the embodiment of the invention is not limited only thereto. In the following Examples, all parts are by weight unless specified otherwise. The words "Teflon", "Fluon", "Kel", "Vinylite", "Hoechst" and "Sasol" are U.K. Registered Trade Marks.

Example 1

A mixture comprising 100 parts of Piccolastic D-150 (a styrene polymer resin produced and sold by Esso Petrochemical Co.), 5 parts of Peerless 155 (a carbon black produced and sold by Columbia Carbon Co.), 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX (a product produced and sold by Orient Chemical K.K.) and 10 parts of Viscol 550-P (a low molecular weight polypropylene produced and sold by Sanyo Kasei K.K.) was subjected to a ball mill for about 24 hours and then kneaded by means of a hot roll into a mass. After cooling, the mass was pulverized to prepare a toner having an average particle size of from about 13 to about 15 microns. The toner thus prepared was taken as a sample to be subjected to comparative experiment in accordance with this Example. Separately, a toner was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above, except that both the polypropylene was not contained in the mixture, and the toner thus prepared was taken as a control sample.

4 Parts each of the samples was mixed with 96 parts of an iron powder carrier to prepare a developer, said iron powder having an average particle size of from about 50 to about 80 microns. Using each one of the two developers thus prepared, a static image which had been formed according to

ordinary procedure of electrophotography was developed. Thereafter, the toner image was transferred onto a transfer sheet and fixed. The fixation was carried out by use of a fixing roller having its surface formed from FEP (a tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoropropylene copolymer produced and sold by Du Pont), where the transfer sheet bearing the toner image thereon was allowed to contact with the roller at a temperature of 200° to 210°C. so that the image is melted to fix onto the surface of the sheet. Subsequently, a fresh transfer sheet having no toner image thereon was subjected, after completion of the fixation operations using individually the sample toner and the control sample toner, to fixation under the same conditions as above with the view of investigating whether or not the melt-fixed toner image is transferred onto the surface of the fixing roller to cause a so-called offset phenomenon. Each of the transfer sheets thus treated was investigated to observe whether the surface thereof was stained due to occurrence of offset of the toner on the roller surface.

As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner was used, the transfer sheet was markedly stained on its surface due to the offset of toner, whereas no stain was observed on the sheet surface when the sample toner was used. It was thus recognized that in the case of the sample toner, no offset of the toner will occur. Similar results to the above were also observed even after repetition of the fixation operations in the above manner.

Example 2

A toner was prepared by treating in the same manner as in Example 1 a mixture comprising 80 parts of Piccolastic E-125 (a styrene polymer resin produced and sold by Esso Petrochemical Co.), 20 parts of S-lec BL-S (a polyvinylbutyral resin produced and sold by Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd.), 10 parts of Peerless 155, 3 parts of Oil Black BW (a product produced and sold by Orient Chemical K.K.) and 10 parts of Viscol 660-P. Separately, a control sample toner was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above except that the mixture contained no polypropylene.

With each one of the two kinds of toners, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from Teflon (polytetrafluoroethylene produced and sold by Du Pont) and the melt fix temperature employed was 170° to 180°C. to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner was used, a distinctly marked offset phenomenon occurred, whereas no such

phenomenon occurred at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 3

A mixture comprising 100 parts of a copolymer of about 80% of styrene and about 20% of dimethylaminoethyl methacrylate, 5 parts of Diablack SH (a product produced and sold by Mitsubishi Chemical Industries, Inc.) and 7 parts of Viscol 660-P was treated in the same manner as in Example 1 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner was prepared exactly in the same procedure as above except that the polypropylene was not contained in the mixture.

Using each one of the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from KE-1300 RTV (a silicone rubber produced and sold by Shinetsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) was used as the fixing roller and the melt fix temperature employed was 180° to 190°C., to investigate offset property of the toner.

As a result, a distinct occurrence of the offset phenomenon of toner was recognized when the control sample toner was used, whereas no such phenomenon was recognized at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 4

In the same manner as in Example 1, a mixture comprising 100 parts of a copolymer of about 70% styrene and about 30% 3-chloro-2-hydroxypropyl methacrylate, 10 parts of Viscol 550-P, 8 parts of Diablack SH and 5 parts of Oilblack BW and was treated to prepare a toner.

Separately, a control sample toner was prepared exactly in the same procedure as above except that the mixture contained no polypropylene (Viscol 550-P).

With each of the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from Teflon was used as the fixing roller and the melt fix temperature employed was 175° to 185°C., to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that in case the control sample toner was used, a clearly distinct offset phenomenon of toner occurred, whereas no such phenomenon was recognized to occur when the sample toner was used.

Example 5

A sample toner was prepared by treating in the same manner as in Example 1 a mixture comprising 100 parts of a copolymer of about 85% of styrene and about 15% of stearyl methacrylate, 5 parts of Peerless 155,

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5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX and 10 parts of Viscol 660-P.

Separately, exactly the same procedure was as above repeated except that the polypropylene was not contained in the mixture to prepare a control sample toner.

Using each one of the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from Teflon was used the melt as the fixing roller and the fix temperature employed was 190° to 200°C., to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that a distinct offset phenomenon of toner occurred when the control sample toner was used, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 6

A mixture comprising 100 parts of Piccolastic D-150, 5 parts of Diablock SH, 5 parts of Oil Black BS (a product produced and sold by Orient Chemical Co., Ltd.), 5 parts of Viscol 550-P, and 3 parts of zinc stearate was treated in the same manner as in Example 1 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above except that the zinc stearate was not added to the mixture. Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above except that the zinc stearate and the polypropylene were all not contained in the mixture.

Using each one of the three kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that occurrence of a distinct offset phenomenon of toner was recognized when the control sample toner (B) was used, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized in each of the cases where the control sample toner (A) and the sample toner were used respectively. After repeating further the above operations, it was recognized that the sample toner has a long life without being subject to change in its frictional charge property for a long period of time, compared with the control sample toner (A).

Example 7

A mixture comprising 100 parts of a copolymer of about 65% of styrene and about 35% of butyl methacrylate, 8 parts of Diablock SH, 3 parts of Oil Black BW, 5 parts Viscol 550-P and 2 parts of lead stearate was treated in the same manner as in Example 1 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the lead stearate was not added to the mixture.

Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared according to exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the lead stearate and the polypropylene were all not added to the mixture.

Using each one of the three kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from Teflon was used as the fixing roller and the melt fixing temperature offset employed was 180° to 190°C. to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was recognized when the control sample toner (B) was used, a distinct offset phenomenon of toner occurs, whereas no such phenomenon occurred at all in case where the control sample toner (A) or the sample toner was used. After repeating further the same operations, it was recognized that the sample toner had a long life without being subjected to change in its frictional charge property for a long period of time, compared with the control sample toner (A).

Example 8

A mixture comprising 100 parts of a copolymer of about 50% styrene, about 30% of butyl methacrylate and about 20% of methyl methacrylate, 40 parts of Piccolastic D-150, 5 parts of Peerless 155, 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX, 8 parts of Viscol 660-P and 5 parts of barium stearate was treated in the same manner as in Example 1 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the barium stearate was not added to the mixture. Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared according to exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the barium stearate and the polypropylene were all not contained in the mixture.

Using each one of the three kinds of toners, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that the melt fixing temperature employed was 180° to 190°C. to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was recognized that a distinct offset phenomenon occurs when the control sample toner (B) was used, while no such phenomenon occurred at all in case where the control sample toner (A) or the sample toner was used.

After repeating further the above operations, it was recognized that the sample toner has a long life without being subject to change in its frictional charge property for a long period of time, compared with the control sample toner (A).

Example 9

A mixture comprising 80 parts of a copolymer of about 80% of styrene and about

20% of ethyl methacrylate, and 20 parts of Vinylite VYLF (a copolymer of about 87 parts of vinyl chloride and about 13 parts of vinyl acetate produced and sold by Bakelite Corp.), 8 parts of Dia Black SH, 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX, 3 parts of Viscol 660-P and 2 parts of Hoechst Wax PA 190 (a low molecular weight polyethylene produced and sold by Hoechst AG) was treated in the manner similar to that in Example 1 to prepare a toner which was then taken as a sample. Separately, a toner was prepared according to exactly the same manner as above except that the polypropylene was not contained in the mixture, and the toner was taken as a control sample.

Using individually the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that the melt fixing temperature employed was from 190° to 200°C. The toners were tested for their offset property. As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner was used, the offset phenomenon of toner occurred distinctly, whereas no such phenomenon occurred at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 10

A toner was prepared in the same procedure as in Example 1 except that 5 parts instead of 10 parts of Viscol 550-P was used and 3 parts of Plastflow (ethylenbisstearoylamide produced and sold by Nitto Chemical Co., Ltd.), and the toner was taken as a sample. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared exactly in the same procedure as above except that the Plastflow was not added, and the toner thus prepared was taken as a control sample. Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared exactly in the same procedure except that both the Plastflow and the polypropylene were not contained in the mixture.

Using individually the three kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from KE-12 RTV (a silicone rubber produced and sold by Shinetsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) was used as the fixing roller and the melt fixing temperature employed was 180° to 190°C., and the toners were investigated for their offset property. As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner (B) was used, a distinct occurrence of offset phenomenon of the toner was recognized, whereas no occurrence of offset phenomenon of the toner was recognized at all when the sample toner or the control sample toner (A) was used. At the time of pulverization in the course of preparing the toner, it was observed that the sample toner was less liable to excessive pulverization, compared with the control sample toner (A).

Example 11

A sample toner was prepared in the same procedure as in Example 1 except that 5 parts instead of 10 parts of Viscol 550-P was used in and 3 parts of Sasol Wax HI (a high melting synthetic paraffin produced and sold by Sasol Marketing Co.) was added to the mixture. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared by repeating exactly the same procedure as above except that both the Sasol Wax HI was not added to the mixture. Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared exactly in the same procedure as above except that both the Sasol Wax HI and the polypropylene were not added to the mixture.

Using individually the three kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated to investigate offset property of the respective toners. As a result, it was observed that a distinct offset phenomenon was recognized when the control sample toner (B) was used, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized when the control sample toner (A) and the sample toner were used in each case. It was recognized, moreover, that at the time of pulverization in the course of preparing the toner, the sample toner was less liable to excessive pulverization, compared with the control sample (A).

Example 12

A mixture comprising 80 parts of a copolymer of about 80% of styrene and about 20% of ethyl methacrylate, 8 parts of Dia Black SH, 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX, 3 parts of Viscol 660-P and 2 parts of Hoechst Wax S (a higher fatty acid produced and sold by Hoechst AG) was treated in the same manner as in Example 1 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above except that the polypropylene was not added to the mixture.

Using individually the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that the melt fixing temperature employed was 155° to 165°C. to investigate offset property of the respective toners. As a result, it was observed that the offset phenomenon occurred to some extent when the control sample toner was used, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized in case where the sample toner was used.

Example 13

A mixture comprising 80 parts of a copolymer of about 80% styrene and about 20% of ethyl methacrylate, 20 parts of Vinylite VYLF, 8 parts of Dia Black, 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX, 3 parts of Viscol 660-P, 2 parts of Hoechst Wax PA 190, 3 parts of Hoechst Wax S and 1 part of cal-

cium palmitate was treated in the same procedure as in Example 1 to obtain a sample toner.

5 Separately, a control sample toner was prepared by repeating exactly the same procedure as above except that the polypropylene was not added to the mixture.

10 Using individually the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 1 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from KE-12 RTV was used as the fixing roller and the melt fixing temperature employed was 160° to 170°C. to investigate offset property of the
15 respective toners. As a result, it was observed that an occurrence of the offset phenomenon of toner was recognized when the control sample toner was used, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized at all
20 when the sample toner was used. As a result of repeated use of the present sample toner, it was observed that had a long life without being subject to change in its frictional charging property for a long period of time.

25 Example 14

A mixture comprising 100 parts of Piccolastic D-150 (a styrene polymer resin produced and sold by Esso Petrochemical Co.),
30 5 parts of Peerless 155 (a carbon black produced and sold by Columbia Carbon Co.), 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX (a product produced and sold by Orient Chemical K.K.), 2 parts of Viscol 550-P (a low molecular weight polypropylene produced and sold by Sanyo
35 Kasei K.K.) and 5 parts of paraffin wax 135° (a product produced and sold by Nippon Oil K.K.) was subjected to a ball mill for about 24 hours and then kneaded by means of a hot roll into a mass. After cooling, the mass was
40 pulverized to prepare a toner having an average particle size of from about 13 to about 15 microns. The toner thus prepared was taken as a sample to be subjected to comparative experiment in accordance with this ex-
45 ample. Separately, a toner was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above, except that both the polypropylene and paraffin were not contained in the mixture, and the toner thus prepared was taken as a control sample.

50 4 Parts each of the samples was mixed with 96 parts of an iron powder carrier to prepare a developer, said iron powder having an average grainsize of from about 50 to about 80 microns. Using each one of the
55 two developers thus prepared, a static image which had been formed according to ordinary procedure of electrophotography was developed. Thereafter, the toner image was transferred onto a transfer sheet and fixed.
60 The fixation was carried out by use of a fixing roller having its surface formed from FEP (a tetrafluoroethylene/hexafluoropropylene copolymer produced and sold by Du Pont), where the transfer sheet bearing the

65 toner image thereon was allowed to contact with the roller at a temperature of 185° to 195°C. so that the image is melted to fix onto the surface of the sheet. Subsequently, a fresh transfer sheet having no toner image thereon was subjected, after completion of
70 the fixation operations using individually the same toner and the control sample toner, to fixation under the same conditions as above with the view of investigating whether or not the melt-fixed toner image is transferred onto
75 the surface of the fixing roller to cause a so-called offset phenomenon. Each of the transfer sheets thus treated was investigated to observe whether the surface thereof was stained due to occurrence of offset of the
80 toner on the roller surface.

As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner was used, the transfer sheet was markedly stained on its surface due to the offset of toner, whereas no
85 stain was observed on the sheet surface when the sample toner was used. It was thus recognized that in the case of the sample toner, no offset of the toner will occur. Similar results to the above were also observed
90 even after repetition of the fixation operations in the above manner.

Example 15

A toner was prepared in the same procedure as in Example 14 except that AC polyethylene 6A (a low molecular weight polyethylene produced and sold by Allied chemical Co.) was used in place of Viscol 550-P,
95 and the toner was taken as a sample. Separately, a toner was prepared exactly in the same procedure as above except that both the polyethylene and paraffin wax were not added, and the toner thus prepared was taken
100 as a control sample.

Using individually the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from KE-12 RTV (a silicone rubber produced and sold by
105 Shinetsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) was used as the fixing roller, and the toners were investigated for their offset property. As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner was used, a distinct occurrence of offset phenomenon of the toner was recognized,
110 whereas no occurrence of offset phenomenon of the toner was recognized at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 16

A mixture comprising 50 parts of Piccolastic D-150, 50 parts of Piccolastic D-125 (a styrene polymer resin produced and sold by Esso Petrochemical Co.), 5 parts of Dia-Black SH (a product produced and sold by
120 Mitsubishi Chemical Industries, Inc.), 5 parts of Oil Black BS (a product produced and sold by Sanyo Kasei K.K.), 3 parts of

Viscol 660-P (a low molecular weight polypropylene), 2 parts of AC polyethylene 6A and 5 parts of paraffin wax 140 (a product produced and sold by Nippon Oil K.K.) was treated in the manner similar to that in Example 14 to prepare a toner which was then taken as a sample. Separately, a toner was prepared according to exactly the same manner as above except that the polypropylene, the polyethylene and the paraffin wax were not contained in the mixture, and the toner was taken as a control sample.

Using individually the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that the melt fixing temperature employed was from 170° to 180°C. The toners were tested for their offset property. As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner was used, the offset phenomenon of toner occurred distinctly, whereas no such phenomenon occurred at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 17

A sample toner was prepared by treating in the same manner as in Example 14 a mixture comprising 80 parts of Piccolastic E-125 (a styrene polymer resin produced and sold by Esso Petrochemical Co.), 20 parts of S-lec BL-S (a polyvinylbutyral resin produced and sold by Seikisui Chemical Co., Ltd.), 10 parts of Peerless 155, 3 parts of Oil Black BW (a product produced and sold by Orient Chemical K.K.), 10 parts of Viscol 660-P and 3 parts of paraffin wax 135°. Separately, a control sample toner was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above except that the polypropylene and the paraffin wax were not contained in the mixture.

With each one of the two kinds of toners, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from Teflon (polytetrafluoroethylene produced and sold by Du Pont) and the melt fix temperature employed was 160° to 170°C. to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that when the control sample toner was used, a distinctly marked offset phenomenon occurred, whereas no such phenomenon occurred at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 18

A mixture comprising 100 parts of a copolymer of about 70% of styrene and about 30% of butyl methacrylate, 5 parts of Peerless 155, 10 parts of Viscol 550-P and 4 parts of paraffin wax was treated in the same manner as in Example 14 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner was prepared exactly in the same procedure as above except that both the polypropylene and the paraffin wax were not contained in the mixture.

Using each one of the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from KE-1300 RTV (a silicone rubber produced and sold by Shinetsu Chemical Co., Ltd.) was used as the fixing roller and the melt fix temperature employed was 175° to 185°C., to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that a distinct occurrence of the offset phenomenon of toner was recognized when the control sample toner was used, whereas no such phenomenon was recognized at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 19

A sample toner was prepared by treating in the same manner as in Example 14 a mixture comprising 40 parts of Piccolastic E-125, 30 parts of Piccolastic D-150, 10 parts of S-lec BL-1 (a polyvinylbutyral resin produced and sold by Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd.), 20 parts of Dianal BR-102 (a butyl polymethacrylate resin produced and sold by Mitsubishi Rayon Co., Ltd.), 5 parts of Dia Black SH, 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX, 10 parts of Viscol 550-P and 3 parts of paraffin wax 135°. Separately, exactly the same procedure was as above repeated except that both the polypropylene and the paraffin wax were not contained in the mixture to prepare a control sample toner.

Using each one of the two kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that the melt fix temperature employed was 170° to 180°C., to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that a distinct offset phenomenon of toner was recognized to occur when the control sample toner was used, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized at all when the sample toner was used.

Example 20

In the same manner as in Example 14, a mixture comprising 80 parts of a copolymer of about 80% styrene and about 20% ethyl methacrylate, 20 parts of Vinylite VYLF (a copolymer of about 87 parts vinyl chloride and about 13 parts vinyl acetate produced and sold by Bakelite K.K.), 8 parts of Dia Black SH, 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX, 3 parts of Viscol 660-P, 2 parts of Hoechst Wax PA 190 (a low molecular weight polyethylene produced and sold by Hoechst Co.) and 5 parts of paraffin wax 140° was treated to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner was prepared exactly in the same procedure as above except that the polypropylene, the polyethylene and the paraffin wax were all not contained in the mixture.

With each one of the two kinds of toners

thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that the melt fix temperature employed was 175° to 185°C., to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that in case the control sample toner was used, a clearly distinct offset phenomenon of toner was recognized to occur, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized to occur when the sample toner was used.

Example 21

A mixture comprising 100 parts of Piccolastic D-150, 5 parts of Dia Black SH, 5 parts of Oil Black BS, 2 parts of Viscol 550-P, 5 parts of paraffin wax 135° and 3 parts of zinc stearate was treated in the same manner as in Example 14 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above except that the zinc stearate was not added to the mixture. Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as above except that the zinc stearate, the polypropylene and the paraffin wax were all not contained in the mixture.

Using each one of the three kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was observed that occurrence of a distinct offset phenomenon of toner was recognized when the control sample toner (B) was used, whereas no occurrence of such phenomenon was recognized in each of the cases where the control sample toner (A) and the sample toner were used respectively. After repeating further the above operations, it was recognized that the sample toner has a long life without being subject to change in its frictional charge property for a long period of time, compared with the control sample toner (A).

Example 22

A mixture comprising 40 parts of Piccolastic D-150, 40 parts of Piccolastic D-125, 20 parts of S-lec BM-2 (a polyvinyl butyral resin produced and sold by Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd.), 8 parts of Peerless 155, 5 parts of Nigrosin Base EX, 5 parts of Viscol 660-P, 5 parts of paraffin wax 140° and 1 part of calcium palmitate was treated in the same manner as in Example 14 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the calcium palmitate was not added to the mixture. Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared according to exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the calcium palmitate, the polypropylene and the paraffin wax were all not contained in the mixture.

Using each one of the three kinds of toners, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from KE-12 RTV was used as the fixing roller and the melt fixing temperature employed was 160° to 170°C. to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was recognized that a distinct offset phenomenon occurs when the control sample toner (B) was used, while no such phenomenon occurred at all in case where the control sample toner (A) or the sample toner was used. After repeating further the above operations, it was recognized that the sample toner has a long life without being subject to change in its frictional charge property for a long period of time, compared with the control sample toner (A).

Example 23

A mixture comprising 100 parts of a copolymer of about 65 parts of styrene and about 35% of butyl methacrylate, 8 parts of Dia Black SH, 3 parts of Oil Black BW, 5 parts of Hoechst Wax PA 190, 5 parts of paraffin wax 140° and 0.5 part of lead stearate was treated in the same manner as in Example 14 to prepare a sample toner. Separately, a control sample toner (A) was prepared in exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the lead stearate was not added to the mixture. Further, a control sample toner (B) was prepared according to exactly the same procedure as in the sample toner except that the lead stearate, the polyethylene and the paraffin wax were all not added to the mixture.

Using each one of the three kinds of toners thus prepared, the same operations as in Example 14 were repeated except that a roller having its surface formed from Teflon was used as the fixing roller and the melt fixing temperature employed was 180° to 190°C. to investigate offset property of the toner. As a result, it was recognized when the control sample toner (B) was used, a distinct offset phenomenon of toner occurs, whereas no such phenomenon occurred at all in case where the control sample toner (A) or the sample toner was used. After repeating further the same operations, it was recognized that the sample toner has a long life without being subject to change in its frictional charge property for a long period of time, compared with the control toner (A).

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A toner for use in developing electrostatic images, comprising (a) a coloring agent, (b) a styrene homopolymer or copolymer resin and (c) at least one polyalkylene compound selected from polyethylene and polypropylene.

2. A toner for use in developing electro-

static images, comprising (a) a coloring agent, (b) a styrene homopolymer or copolymer resin, (c) at least one polyalkylene compound selected from polyethylene and polypropylene, and (d) a paraffin wax.

3. A toner for use in developing electrostatic images, comprising (a) a coloring agent, (b) a styrene homopolymer or copolymer resin, (c) at least one polyalkylene compound selected from polyethylene and polypropylene, (d) a paraffin wax, and (e) a metal salt of a fatty acid.

4. A toner as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said coloring agent (a) is any pigment or dye selected from carbon black, nigrosin dyes, Aniline Blue, Calco Oil Blue, Chrome Yellow, Ultramarine Blue, Du Pont Oil Red, Quinoline Yellow, Methylene Blue Chloride, Phthalocyanine Blue, Malachite Green Oxalate, lampblack, Rose Bengal and mixtures thereof.

5. A toner as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said resin (b) is copolymer of styrene with one or more ethylenically unsaturated monomers.

6. A toner as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ethylenically unsaturated monomer(s) are selected from p-chlorostyrene, vinyl-naphthalene, monoolefins, vinyl esters, α -methylene aliphatic monocarboxylic acid esters, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, acrylamide, vinyl ethers, vinyl ketones, N-vinyl pyrrole, N-vinyl carbazole, N-vinyl indole and N-vinyl pyrrolidone.

7. A toner as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said polyalkylene compound (c) is polyethylene with an average molecular weight of about 1500 to about 3000 or polypropylene with an average molecular weight of about 2000 to about 6000.

8. A toner as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein said paraffin wax (d) is a natural or synthetic C_{15} to C_{40} -paraffinic hydrocarbon which is normally solid and has a melting point of 37° to 65°C .

9. A toner as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said fatty acid metal salt (e) is a cadmium, barium, lead, iron, nickel, cobalt, copper, strontium, calcium or magnesium salt of stearic acid; a zinc, manganese, iron, cobalt, copper, lead or magnesium salt of oleic acid; a zinc, cobalt, copper, magnesium, aluminum or calcium salt of palmitic acid; a zinc, cobalt or cal-

cium salt of linoleic acid; a zinc or cadmium salt of ricinoleic acid, a lead salt of caprylic acid; a lead salt of caproic acid; or a mixture of two or more said salts.

10. A method of thermally fixing an electrostatic image developed with a toner claimed in any preceding claim, which comprises contacting the developed image, carried on a support material, under pressure with a heated member to fix the image.

11. A method according to claim 10 wherein a plurality of images is fixed successively with the same heated member.

12. A toner according to claim 1 wherein the polyalkylene compound is a polypropylene of molecular weight from 2,000 to 6,000.

13. A toner according to claim 12 which also contains a metal salt of a fatty acid.

14. A toner according to claim 13 wherein the metal salt is as defined in claim 9.

15. A toner according to claim 12, 13 or 14 wherein the coloring agent is as defined in claim 4.

16. A toner according to claim 12, 13, 14 or 15 wherein the resin (b) is as defined in claim 5 or 6.

17. A toner according to claim 1, substantially as described in any one of Examples 1 to 13.

18. A method of thermally fixing an electrostatic image developed with a toner claimed in any one of claims 12 to 17, which comprises contacting the developed image, carried on a support material, under pressure with a heated member to fix the image.

19. A toner according to claim 2 or 3 as further defined in any one of claims 4 to 9.

20. A toner according to claim 2 substantially as described in any one of Examples 14 to 23.

21. A method of thermally fixing an electrostatic image developed with a toner claimed in claim 19 or 20, which comprises contacting the developed image, carried on a support material, under pressure with a heated member to fix the image.

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